



OTI ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING REPORT (EMMR)

PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA

Project/Activity Name:	Niger Stability Support Initiative (NSSI)
Geographic Location(s) (Country/Region):	Niger (entire country)
Task Order Start/End Date:	21 Sept 2020 - December 30, 2025
Contract/Award Number:	7200AA19D00030 (SWIFT 5-Programs) Order No. 7200AA20F00016
Implementing Partner(s):	The Kaizen Company, LLC
Tracking ID:	CPS_OTI_NSSI_EMMR_April-Sept2021 https://ecd.usaid.gov/document.php?doc_id=54357
Tracking ID/link of Related IEE:	DCHA OTI Global IEE_2017
Tracking ID/link of Other, Related Analyses:	OTI Global IEE: https://ecd.usaid.gov/document.php?doc_id=50522

ORGANIZATIONAL/ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Implementing Operating Unit(s): (e.g. Mission or Bureau or Office)	Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)
Lead BEO Bureau:	Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization (CPS)
EMMR Reporting Period:	May – September 2021
Prepared by:	Steve Snyder, Home Office Point of Contact
Submitted by:	Steve Snyder, Home Office Point of Contact

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW DATA

Environmental Determinations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative Determination with Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Determination	Climate Risks:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High
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PURPOSE

Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report (EMMRs) are required for USAID-funded projects when the 22 CFR 216 documentation governing the project impose conditions on at least one project component. EMMRs ensure that the ADS 204 requirements for reporting on environmental compliance are met. EMMRs are used to report on the status of mitigation and monitoring efforts in accordance with IEE and EMMP requirements over the preceding project implementation period. They are provided bi-annually in accordance with the OTI semi-annual reporting schedule.

Generally, OTI EMMRs are developed by the Implementing Partner (IP). EMMRs are used to report on the status of mitigation and monitoring efforts in accordance with Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) requirements over the preceding reporting period. Responsibility for ensuring IPs submit appropriate EMMRs rests with the USAID Contracting Officer Representative (CORs). These reports are an important tool in adaptive management and are used by Mission, Regional, and Bureau Environmental officers to ensure USAID interventions are implemented in compliance with 22 CFR 216 and mitigation measures are adequate.

1. PROJECT/ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Activities Implemented During Reporting Period	
20 Activities	Cumulative Amount: \$854,841

Please find attached to this report, the current BEO Environmental Oversight Report for the associated reporting period.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

For six years, the USAID/Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) in Niger has worked with communities in the Tillabéri, Diffa, and Agadez regions to counter violent extremist threats. Recognizing that this threat is layered on complex set of development challenges for Niger, USAID/OTI launched the new Niger Stability Support Initiative (NSSI) in September 2020, focusing on a smaller geographic area in Tillabéri, Dosso, and Niamey, and shifting to support the Government of Niger's (GoN) stabilization, governance, and peacebuilding efforts while promoting conflict-sensitive approaches to programming.

OTI/Niger's initial program objectives and their underlying TOCs for NSSI include:

- Assisting the civilian ministries of the Government of Niger and other national institutions and regional stakeholders to support stabilization and peacebuilding efforts.
- Strengthening the connection between national, regional, and local level governance in key areas.
- Supporting USAID/Mission efforts to adapt programming across sectors to create synergies to bolster stabilization objectives.

NSSI uses a variety of mechanisms to achieve these program objectives, including grants under contract (GUC, short-term technical assistance (STTA), and the direct delivery of goods and services (DDGS).

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN (IAP) UPDATE

A. STAFFING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

At the conclusion of the previous reporting period (April 2021), key documentation including the C-IEE (including CRM), IAP, and EMMP were approved. As such, staffing for environmental compliance within the reporting period of this report included the NSSI and Environmental Compliance Consultant Chuck Henry who worked with NSSI Field Office Staff on the project's first activity that required review. During the reporting period, Kaizen Home Office Staff Member Dylan Orechovesky assumed the coordination role for subsequent EMMR-related activities on

the project until his departure from Kaizen in August 2021. The team will work to identify a suitable Home Office staff member to take over this role in the coming months.

With the appropriate environmental compliance documentation now in place, staffing will continue as outlined in the approved IAP and as follows:

The Program Development Officer (PDO) will serve as the primary NSSI staff member responsible for day-to-day environmental supervision and management, including climate risk management, with oversight/support as needed by the NEC. The NEC will rely upon the Program Development Officers (PDOs), the FPAs, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer/Manager (MELO/MELM) and local Engineers to perform activity review, field monitoring and EMMP reporting.

The NEC works under the direct supervision of the OM and is responsible for overseeing the design and implementation of all environmental monitoring and mitigation. Specifically, the NEC supports the initial proposal review, the determination of appropriate activity category(s), the development of the EMMP and semi-annual EMMRs, as well as their implementation for all program activities. The NEC is responsible for training field data gathering by project staff and/or contractors in the environmental compliance procedure and field data gathering. The NEC ensures program/contractor staff receive adequate training to serve as the environmental liaison with the communities, local authorities, grantees and the contractor.

NSSI's first activity requiring environmental review was 01NIA016 'Let's Talk: Better Governance for Better Security in Dosso Region'. This activity was cleared on August 6, 2021 and involved two major components, the second of which was the rehabilitation of meeting rooms and other key areas of the governorate's offices in Dosso. Mr. Henry, who drafted the initial CIE, IAP, and EMMR, provided a remote training to the local engineer who conducted the actual assessment and review on the ground in Dosso.

All relevant staff have subsequently undergone training in environmental compliance, climate risk, observations, and field monitoring. The NEC will make annual visits (as needed) to: (1) provide general review of the program's environmental compliance including key site visits; (2) provide supplementary training; (3) should NSSI seek approval to work in protected areas or sensitive habitats (e.g. National Parks, Forest Reserves), for evaluations (scoping studies, etc.); or (4) as necessary for assistance in environmental review for larger projects, such as community buildings or water point rehabilitations. Any revisions required of the C-IEE or EMMP will be carried out by the NEC in collaboration with the Environmental Compliance Consultant, who will be available for any additional review/consultation that arises during project implementation.

B. BUDGET ALLOCATION:

The resources allocated for the implementation of environmental compliance and climate risk management were adequate for the reporting period detailed within this report. NSSI does not anticipate a significant increase in expenses during the coming reporting period, however, there are likely to be several activities slated to take place in close proximity to Park W which would require environmental review.

Additional information is provided below on these specific activities.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

A. RESPONSIVENESS TO PREVIOUS USAID IEE & EMMR CONDITIONS

There were no activities during this reporting period which required a BEO letter of conditions and subsequently nothing to note regarding responsiveness or status.

B. STATUS OF EMMP IMPLEMENTATION

CPS BEO approved the final version of the EMMP on April 26, 2021 during the previous reporting period. All activities approved during the current reporting period received the Environmental Risk Classification of Categorical Exclusion, except for activities 1NIA013, 1NIA016, 1NIA017 and 1NIA023 which received the Environmental Risk Classification of Negative Determination with Conditions, as they all involve procurement, some including electronic and IT equipment. Under the terms of NSSI's approved EMMP, activities which include IT and electronics procurement, as well as are rehabilitation projects, require a negative determination. Typical planning and logistical considerations include safe disposition of the commodities to the beneficiary and the beneficiary's plan for handling, storage, and, as these supplies and equipment will degrade over time, they must be disposed of properly at the end of their life.

The following additional information will facilitate understanding in the implementation of the EMMP when conducting certain activities:

1NIA014 & 1NIA020: Protected areas provide shelter for terrorists, facilitating their movement over a large area where they can obtain food. Activities 1NIA014 and 1NIA020 consisted of preparing and equipping agents of the Direction Nationale de la Faune, de la Chasse, des Parcs et des Réserves (National Directorate of Wildlife, Hunting, Parks and Reserves) to face the new security challenges in the area of Parc W and the protected areas (PAs) of the Dosso and Tillabéri regions. In order to strengthen and increase their capacity and relations with the communities in the region during this period of increasing insecurity, USAID/OTI provided in-kind assistance under Activity 1NIA014 and 1NIA020 for capacity-building workshops for Water and Forestry agents and to provide a forum for constructive dialogue. These workshops were followed by sensitization caravans on measures and behaviors to adopt in the face of insecurity and also for the involvement of communities in the protection of protected park resources.

The workshops were held respectively in Kollo and in the meeting room of the Djoliba Hotel in Tillabéri, therefore outside the W park and protected areas. The participants were made up of the executives of the said direction, the field agents and the guides. Also these various activities were directed from beginning to end by the agents National Direction of the Fauna, the Hunting, the Parks and the Reserves which have a control of the legislation in force in environmental matter. However, a census of giraffes was carried out by the management unit of the Kouré forest. NSSI has been working with the DFC (Direction Nationale de la Faune, de la Chasse, des Parcs et des Réserves) to help them ensure better protection of protected areas by strengthening the links between foresters and communities living in the immediate vicinity of protected areas. OTI's goal is to prevent these protected areas from being used as safe havens and livelihoods for terrorist groups.

1NIA022: This is a research activity that is categorically excluded. The products provided are as follows: Tablet with protective cover and power Bank, pack of pens and A4 size notepad. This equipment will be used to conduct a case study of three NSSI caravan activities with logistical support in the form of vehicle rental for the travel of the interviewers.

There were no activities during this reporting period which required a BEO letter of conditions and subsequently nothing to note regarding EMMP implementation.

4. LESSONS LEARNED

There were no activities during this reporting period which required a BEO letter of conditions and subsequently nothing to note regarding lessons learned.

5.0 DISTRIBUTION TO USAID

This EMMR will be distributed by OTI COR and/or OTI Activity Manager to the following USAID Environmental Officers (EOs) and Climate Integration Leads (CILs) for their situational awareness:

- Mission Environmental Officer (MEO)
- Regional Environmental Officer/Advisor (REO/A)
- Agency Climate Integration Leads (CILs)
- CPS Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO)

While the OTI EMMR will not undergo formal USAID clearance, the distribution of this EMMR will permit USAID EOs and CILs to review and provide oversight for potential implementation conditions, as well as provide opportunities for enhanced coordination and data/information sharing between USAID EOs and CILs.